

Cable Office Report
CCAC Meeting – September 24, 2008
(corrected 9/25/08)

General/Administrative

- Cable Administrator Vacancy – Posting is still open; In the process of conducting interviews.
- Two procurement solicitations have been posted with the following closing dates:
 - Request for Proposals # 8346000020 - Organizational Review of Montgomery County's Public, Education and Government Access Channels closes October 6, 2008
 - Request for Proposals # 8346000017 - Public Education Government Network Digital Study closes October 7, 2008
- FY10 Budget: OMB kickoff meeting is scheduled for 9/25. At this meeting we will receive our target budget and guidelines.
- CTIA petition:
CTIA, the trade association of the cellular telephone industry, has asked the FCC to declare new limitations on local zoning authority as it affects cell tower siting. Specifically, CTIA requests the FCC to:
 - create a "shot clock" of 45 or 75 days for wireless antenna or tower zoning applications;
 - rule that applications are automatically deemed granted if a local government misses the FCC's deadline;
 - prevent localities from considering the presence of service by other carriers in evaluating an additional carrier's application for an antenna site; and
 - preempt any local ordinance that would effectively require a variance for every tower application.

The County has joined a coalition and will be filling comments.

DTV Outreach plan

Activity	Date completed	Notes
Conduct a training for DHHS Staff, Aging and Disability	July 9, 2008	
Distribute informational flier to Libraries and Regional Service Centers		
Distribute informational flier at County Fair	August 8-16, 2008	Had converter box
Distribute information at Maryland Association of Counties Annual Conference	August 13- 15, 2008	Had converter box
Distribute informational flier at OCP event at Mid County Regional Service Center	Sept 17, 2008	

Distribute informational flier at Housing Fair	Sept 27, 2008	
Distribute information at Taste of Friendship Heights	Sept. 20, 2008	
Distribute informational flier at Hispanic Health Fair	Sept 20, 2008	
Distribute informational flier at Gaithersburg Festival	Sept 21, 2008	
Distribute informational flier at Taste of Bethesda Fair	Oct 4, 2008	
Staff an informational table at Senior Centers		
Have a DTV 101 class at Holiday Senior Center	Oct 15, 2008	
Put information on County's Intranet site		
Put information as OCP's "Tip of the Week"	August 18, 2008	
Put information on County's OCP and Cable's webpages	May 2008	
Do County Comments show on topic	July 2008	Aired week of August 17, 2008 Will place VOD on CCM site
Do Metro Talk Radio Show on topic	August 2008	
Contact El Tiempo and Washington Hispanic newspapers		
Contact the various meals on wheels programs to see if they will distribute the flier to their clients		
Work with MCPS to get PSA's on their channels		
Do speech at two senior apartment buildings, University Towers and The Warwick	Sept 18, 2008 Oct 2, 2008	
Distribute informational flier at CE Town Hall meeting in Clarksburg	Sept 17, 2008	
Distribute informational flier at Council's Town Hall meeting	Sept 24, 2008	

Distribute informational flier at Council's Town Hall meeting in Montgomery Village	Nov 19, 2008	
Distribute informational flier at CE Town Hall meeting in Damascus	Nov 20, 2008	
Distribute informational flier at Council's Town Hall meeting in Germantown/Darnestown	Jan 28, 2009	

We also have sent information to the administrative offices of the Libraries for distribution to all the branches and are working with Meals on Wheels.

Council

- Legislative Analyst assignments have changed. Dr. Costis Toregas has been assigned as analyst for cable and technology issues. Dr. Toregas is planning on attending tonight's meeting.
- MFP Work Session – 10/20/08 9:30 in the 5th Floor Council Conference Room
 - Quarterly Review - Comcast, RCN, and Verizon Customer Service
 - Cable fund balance policy
 - Discussion - MCT Bylaws

Comcast

- County is preparing Rate Orders for the October 1, 2007 1205 & 1240 filings.
- Cable Office received complaints from DPWT concerning relocation of cable for new roads. Comcast was not responding in a timely manner. Problem seems to be resolved. Have not received any complaints recently.
- County has requested construction of 15 new Fibernet sites and Comcast as approved construction of 6. Construction dates to be determined.
- County staff continues meeting with Comcast to discuss reporting and compliance concerns.

Verizon

- Digital conversion –Verizon completed its conversion to an all digital platform. Cable Office did not receive any complaints concerning the conversion.
- The Mayor and Council of Rockville approved the franchise agreement and County/Municipal agreement.

RCN

- Conversion to an all digital platform will begin October 25 and is scheduled to take about 1 month. All TVs MUST have a RCN box in order to receive the signal. See attached information from RCN.
- RCN has had staffing changes, the County's contact person is Ms. DeShawn Brown.

CCM

- CE Town Hall Meeting – September 17. Was over two hours long.

- CC Town Hall Meeting – September 24 – Briggs Chaney Middle School
- The Cable Television Engineer position closes on Friday, September 26.
- **NATOA Honors 2008 Government Programming Awards**
Atlanta, GA - (September 20, 2008) – The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) recognized the winners of the 23rd Annual Government Programming Awards (GPA) during a gala event at The Hilton Atlanta. The awards program honors excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. This year, NATOA received more than 1,200 entries submitted by local governments in more than 30 states across the country and Canada.

“This year’s GPA winners demonstrate excellence in local government agency programming and have truly raised the bar for not only meeting but exceeding community needs,” commented NATOA President Doris Boris. “We congratulate these members for their innovation and commitment to quality programming and are thrilled to honor and celebrate their achievements.”

Entries in the 64 categories cover a variety of programming including, among others, community events, documentary, public affairs and public service, interview/talk show, performing arts, sports, election coverage and children’s issues. Among the awards with special significance are the “Excellent in Government Programming” awards which are judged on the agency’s variety of programming quality throughout the year.

Category 59 - Government Access Station Web Site

Total Entries in Category: 14

First Place "The SEATTLE CHANNEL's seattlechannel.org" Seattle Channel, WA

Second Place "http://www.tucson12.tv/" Tucson 12, City of Tucson, AZ

Third Place "CCM" Montgomery County Government, MD

Honorable Mention "www.cityofcalabasas.com" City of Calabasas, CA

"Glendale 11 Web Site" City of Glendale, AZ

PEG Network

- Monday, September 29 – meeting with Comcast reps to discuss Digital transition.